

ther south; they appeared to be feeding on the ground, and small flocks were often disturbed by the train); Rosella (*Platycercus eximius*) (21); Red-backed Parrot (*Psephotus haematonotus*) (55); Laughing Kingfisher (*Dacelo gigas*) (11); Magpie-Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) (8); White-winged Chough (*Corcorax melanorhamphus*) (10; isolated flock, only ones noted on journey); Black-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) (31).—A. S. LE SOEUF, C.M.Z.S., R.A.O.U., Taronga Park, Sydney.

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Mantis and Young Birds.—The following remarkable story was told me quite recently by a man in whose testimony I can place every reliance.

A pair of (what I take to be by his description) Yellow-rumped Tits (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*) had built a nest in a vine growing round the verandah of his house, on the Barwon River.

The distressed state of the birds attracted his attention one morning, and looking into the vine he saw a large mantis with a tiny naked bird securely grasped in its spiked arms and apparently eating at its head. Thinking the occurrence most unusual, and needing a second witness to the act, he jumped on his horse and rode after a friend who had just left. Together they came back and made further investigation. The mantis had gone, but had dropped its prey, which they found lying under the bush with three other tiny birds, each one of which had a tiny round hole in the top of its head and all the brains extracted therefrom.—F. C. MORSE, Moree.

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Mortality amongst Swallows.—During the heavy storm of wind and rain in December last, about 30 Welcome Swallows (*Hirundo neoxena*) that usually frequent the homestead all perished. Dr. Bradby and myself brought six into the house and tried to bring them round by warmth and food, but they would not eat by hand, and all died. They had not a particle of food in the stomach when opened, and evidently died of starvation through there being no insects on the wing owing to the very wet and cold weather with gales of wind. Great numbers of these lovely little birds must perish in heavy, wet and cold weather during the summer months.—J. F. H. GOSLERLEY, R.A.O.U., Ellerslie, Wallis Lake, N.S.W.

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Nesting of Grey Duck.—Herewith you will find two photographs of a white pine (*Podocarpus dacrydioides*), in which, evidently, a Grey Duck (*Anas superciliosa*) built its nest at a